

28 November 1956

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Conference [REDACTED] CIA 25X1A
Emergency Planning Officer, re OGC Review
of Emergency Executive Orders.

1. I met with [REDACTED] for an hour and a half at 25X1A9a his Office on 27 November 1956 and received from him a general briefing on his responsibilities as the Emergency Planning Officer for the Agency. In a most cooperative way [REDACTED] detailed 25X1A9a for me events prior to Operation ALERT 1956 relating to the drafting of emergency executive orders by Federal agencies and departments.

2. He reported that a Cabinet meeting in March 1956 approved a procedure whereby emergency action papers including draft executive orders and proposed legislation were to be prepared in advance by the various agencies and were to be turned over to ODM for screening and coordination and thereafter passed to the President's Office for safekeeping. A review of such papers every six months was also called for. He recalled also that he and Mr. Houston had considered this matter with Colonel White and had reached the conclusion that existing legislation, NSC directives, and current agreements with other agencies were adequate for CIA's wartime mission. Accordingly, the emphasis by this Agency was to be placed upon a review of the proposals of other departments and agencies in order to insure that such proposals would impose no unforeseen limitations on CIA. The substance of this conclusion was embodied in a memorandum signed by Colonel White, dated 24 February 1956, TS 25X1A9a Control No. 141158. [REDACTED] recalled further that CIA made an informal approach to Lyman Hamilton (now replaced by Harry Wilhelm) in the Bureau of the Budget and arranged through this contact that the Bureau of the Budget would advise us of proposed emergency action 25X1A9a directives which might affect the work of this Agency. [REDACTED] had no firsthand knowledge of the three recent emergency action directives which OGC has reviewed and approved and which were sent to this Agency from Roger Jones in the Bureau of the Budget and reached OGC from [REDACTED] However, [REDACTED] thought that 25X1A9a this might be the outgrowth of the arrangement initiated with Lyman Hamilton.

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4. Chronologically the next event that occurred was Operation ALERT 1956 which took place in July, 1956. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a prepared this Agency's overall final evaluation report of that exercise for General Cabell who sent a letter, on this subject, dated 31 August 1956, Executive Registry 8-60-79, to the Director of Defense Mobilization. By memorandum dated 10 August 1956 to Mr. Houston, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a suggested the desirability of a review of the Operation ALERT 1956 directives to determine whether they posed any unforeseen problems affecting CIA's wartime activities. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a also established a contact between the CIA logistic planners and ODM priorities allocation planners.

6. Responding to my inquiry relative to any other non-hypothetical emergency directives that might be in preparation, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a advised that he had no information on this subject. However, he thought it would be appropriate for me to ask [REDACTED] to inquire 25X1A9a informally of Roger Jones in the Bureau of the Budget re further draft executive orders that might be sent to us for review. I pointed out that the necessity for checking out such drafts with operational components might be time consuming. I have followed up on this matter by requesting [REDACTED] to make such an informal inquiry.

7. In view of the issuance of revised briefing documents in a few weeks, I asked [REDACTED] what initiative by OGC he thought was warranted in a further review of Operation ALERT 1956 documents. I reported that an initial screening had been made by various members of this Office. We agreed to continue to give the matter attention without any particular priority pending receipt of the revised briefing documents. [REDACTED] believed it would be worthwhile if I

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should call his attention to any portions of the 1956 orders where I had a question as to the adequacy, in practice, of inter-agency arrangements that would permit us to take advantage of exceptions provided for in the emergency orders. He would then make inquiries to determine whether our operating component had worked out a satisfactory procedure with the other governmental entities involved.

8. We discussed emergency procedures for National Censorship specifically and [REDACTED] reported that he is the Agency 25X1A9a representative on the National Censorship Committee. He stated that a staff has already been selected for the wartime Office of Censorship from his members of the ODM Executive Reserve Corps. It is now planned that the Department of Defense will serve as the interim censoring entity for up to one year until the Office of Censorship can take over. Various inter-agency agreements have been worked out, including one with this Agency now awaiting ODM approval which will levy our intelligence collection requirements on the Office of Censorship. This draft agreement also saves an exception for this Agency with respect to certain mail that we may wish to have excluded from censorship.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant General Counsel~~SECRET~~